

First Things First Updates

Early Learning Advisory Committee 10.23.2012

Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant

- FTF submitted an application with the potential for \$52.5 million over 4 years to support seven goal areas. See Arizona's High-Quality Plan (attachment) for a summary.
- There is a focus on 4 Regional Partnership Council Areas:
 - San Carlos Apache Tribe
 - Navajo Apache
 - South Phoenix
 - Santa Cruz

Kindergarten Developmental Inventory

- Progress continues toward developing and implementing an Arizona Kindergarten Developmental Inventory (KDI) tool.
- The Task Force convened by the Piper Charitable Trust completed their work in July, and a report of that work will be available in September.
- The U.S. Department of Education has awarded more than \$15.1 million in Enhanced Assessment Grants (EAGs) to three state education agencies—North Carolina, Maryland and Texas—to develop or enhance their Kindergarten Entry Assessments.
- North Carolina's award amounts to more than **\$6.1 million**.
- Arizona, is part of the 11-state consortium led by North Carolina.
- In addition to Arizona, other states in the NC consortium include Delaware, Iowa, Maine, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington DC and South Carolina as a collaborating state.

Quality First Validation Study

- Currently working on a Scope of Work to contract with an organization to conduct a validation study on Quality First.

Quality First Website

- Website was launched on August 20, 2013. Please visit www.qualityfirstaz.com to view.
- Spanish translation will be live in November.

CEO Search

- Search Organization has been selected. It is Diversified Search out of D.C.
- Anticipated date of CEO recommendation is January, 2014.

- The First Things First Board has indicated that as the process begins to identify potential candidates, they will be looking to reach out to the ECE community to receive input/feedback. The process for this has not yet been defined.

Professional Development Workgroup

- Draft of the Workforce Knowledge and Competencies is currently under public review. To learn more about the competencies, please visit <http://www.azftf.gov/early-learning-workforce>

There are **two** ways to provide your input on this critical document:

1. Participate in the online survey between October 4-31, 2013 by visiting:
<http://www.azftf.gov/early-learning-workforce>.
- Attend a focus group in your area. If you would like to attend the Phoenix Focus Group on the 29th but can't attend in person, you may join us virtually! You just need to register by visiting <https://azftf.ilinc.com/register/szsczw>. Once you register, you'll receive a confirmation e-mail with instructions for joining the meeting. Please **do NOT** share or forward the link in your confirmation e-mail. It will not work for multiple users. Each user **MUST** register to receive a link for participation.